(b) whether Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited purchased Floppy Disc Drives for Computers during the same period; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the quantities purchased, price paid and the supplier thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited (ET&T) purchased materials worth Rs. 122 lakhs (approximately) for low cost personal computer project till 13th March, 1990.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) ET&T have purchased for its low cost computer project, a number of floppy disc drives at prevailing market rates and based on quality assessments as per their commercial and marketing requirements from an indigenous source so far.

Setting up of National Centre for Medium Range weather forecasting and Agrometeorological Advisory Services

917. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) wrether the National Centre for Medium Range, Weather Forecasting and Agrometeorological Advisory Services has been set up in accordance with Government's clearance accorded in December, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said centre was to become operational within two years; if so, what is the present position in this regard; and

(c) whether the delay caused have been reported to the Cabinet, if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) The project "National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and establishment of Agrometeorological Advisory Services" was approved by Government of India in January, 1988. The centre was to become operational through the installation of the Supercomputer system, which includes front-end processor and other peripherals, (which became functional with effect from March, 1989;) and use of the system for research on development of models for medium range weather forecasting of monsoons i.e. for the period 3 to 10 days in advance. Indian monsoons have unique characteristics and no ready made models exist anywhere in the world for its forecasting on medium range. Such models therefore will have to be developed in India and are normally expected to take a few years. Under the circumstances the question of reporting any delay to the Cabinet does not arise.

घोषित वन क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई तथा अन्य सुविधाएं

918. श्री मोर्जा इर्शादबेग : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राज्यों में घोषित वन क्षेत्र में सिंचाई और अन्य सुविधाओं का विकास करने से संबंधित अनेकों आवेदन पत्र लम्बे समय से लंबित पड़े हैं क्योंकि इन्हें उक्त क्षेत्रों को वन क्षेत्र घोषित कर दिए जाने के कारण स्वीकृति नहीं दी जा रही है ;